

## Message Text

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ACTION PA-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 COME-00 SCI-06 USIA-15 EB-11 L-03

SS-15 IO-13 CU-04 DRC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 /108 W

----- 024897

R 061836Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3830

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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FOR COMMERCE BIC/OIM FOR WELLES HENDERSON, COMMISSIONER  
GENERAL, EXPO '74

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP

SUBJECT: UK PARTICIPATION, EXPO '74, SPOKANE

REF: STATE 173504; LONDON 8992

1. SUMMARY: SINCE WE REPORTED SECOND HMG DECISION  
AGAINST PARTICIPATION SPOKANE '74 WE HAVE BEEN TRYING  
TO OVERCOME FUNDING PROBLEM THROUGH BRITISH INDUSTRY  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO A GOVERNMENT EXHIBITION. HMG OFFICIAL  
POSITION HAS NOT CHANGED AND IS UNLIKELY TO FOR BUDGETARY  
REASONS ACCORDING TO LATEST CHECK WITH FOREIGN COMMON-  
WEALTH OFFICE (FCO) THIS WEEK. END SUMMARY

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2. AS STATED IN LONDON REFTEL, NORMAN REDDAWAY, ASSISTANT UNDER-SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF INFORMATION AND CULTURAL MATTERS, FCO, INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT THE U.K. WOULD NOT BE PARTICIPATING IN EXPO '74, GIVING THE FOLLOWING REASONS: (A) THE BUDGET ORIGINALLY SET ASIDE FOR THIS EVENT UNDER THE AUSPICES OF A COMMON MARKET PAVILLION HAD BEEN SPENT IN OTHER AREAS; (B) THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WAS NOT POSITIVE ENOUGH TO REVERSE AN EARLIER MINISTERIAL DECISION AGAINST PARTICIPATION. EMBASSY OFFICER THEN CONTACTED DAVID NICHOLSON, CHAIRMAN, BRITISH AIRWAYS (BOAC AND BEA), WHO IN A PREVIOUS CONVERSATION WITH COMMISSIONER GENERAL HENDERSON HAD INDICATED THAT BRITISH AIRWAYS MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING. THE IDEA WAS EXPLORED WITH MR. NICHOLSON THAT PERHAPS BRITISH AIRWAYS, ROLLS ROYCE AND BRITISH AIRCRAFT LTD. MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN FUNDING A PORTION OF THE COST INVOLVED IN ORDER THAT THE UK COULD PARTICIPATE IN EXPO '74. MR. NICHOLSON'S FIRST REACTION WAS THAT THIS COULD BE POSSIBLE, AND THAT HE WOULD ASSIST THE EMBASSY TO HELP PROMOTE THIS IDEA. MR. NICHOLSON CONTACTED BOTH THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF ROLLS ROYCE '71, MR. KENNETH G. WILKINSON, AND THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF BRITISH AIRCRAFT CORPORATION, MR. GEOFFREY KNIGHT, SUGGESTING THAT THEY MIGHT WANT TO GET TOGETHER AND SUPPORT THIS FINANCIALLY, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THESE THREE COMPANIES WOULD KEEP A LOW PROFILE IN ORDER THAT IT WOULD FIT UNDER THE BIE REGULATIONS.

3. SUBSEQUENT TO THAT MEETING, NICHOLSON INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT HE HAS RUN INTO DIFFICULTIES WITH HIS OWN PEOPLE, NAMELY MR. O. COCHNE, MANAGER OF BOAC IN NEW YORK, WHO SEEMED TO BE VERY NEGATIVE ABOUT THE IDEA OF BOAC U.S. SPENDING MONEY FOR THIS PARTICULAR EVENT. NICHOLSON SUGGESTED THAT MAYBE WELLES HENDERSON MIGHT WANT TO CONTACT COCHRANE TO SEE IF HE COULD REVERSE HIS DECISION IN ORDER TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR BRITISH AIRWAYS TO RECONSIDER.

4. EMBASSY OFFICER CONTACTED MR. KENNETH G. WILKINSON,  
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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF ROLLS ROYCE, WHO STATED HE HAD RECEIVED MATERIAL FROM DAVID NICHOLSON, BUT AS YET HAD NOT GONE INTO IT IN DETAIL. HIS INITIAL REACTION, HOWEVER, WAS THAT THERE WERE POSSIBILITIES, ALTHOUGH HE COULD NOT GIVE FIRM ANSWER AT THIS STAGE.

5. THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF BRITISH AIRCRAFT CORPORATION, MR. GEOFFREY KNIGHT, IS PRESENTLY IN THE U.S. BUT

EMBASSY OFFICER WILL CONTACT HIM WHEN HE RETURNS.

6. IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT ONE OF THE MAJOR INTERESTS THAT THESE THREE COMPANIES MIGHT HAVE IN PARTICIPATING IN SPOKANE WOULD BE HAVING THE CONCORDE II (WITH THE BODY FRAME MANUFACTURED BY BRITISH AIRCRAFT, ENGINES BY ROLLS ROYCE AND BRITISH AIRWAYS COLORS) BEING GIVEN PERMISSION TO LAND IN SPOKANE (IF AIRPORT

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CAN ACCOMMODATE) SOME TIME DURING THE EXPOSITION.  
WE FEEL THIS WOULD INCREASE THEIR INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING, WITH THE THOUGHT THAT THESE COMPANIES WOULD BE SHOWING THE AIRCRAFT TO THE U.S. PUBLIC AND DEMONSTRATING HOW ENVIRONMENTALLY ACCEPTABLE AN SST CAN BE.

7. AS SUGGESTED DEPT. REFTEL, CHARGE RAISED WITH SIR DENNIS GREENHILL, PERMANENT SECRETARY FCO, POSSIBILITY OF RECONSIDERATION HMG POSITION ON PARTICIPATION EXPO '74. GREENHILL DOUBTED WHETHER THERE WOULD BE ANY CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT'S POSITION REGARDING BUDGETARY SUPPORT FOR UK PARTICIPATION BUT DID NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY OF A FAVORABLE DECISION FOR PARTICIPATION IF THE FUNDING ISSUE COULD BE TAKEN CARE OF BY BRITISH INDUSTRY. THIS WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OBVIOUSLY NOT A COMMITMENT BUT WAS CONSISTENT WITH OPINION EXPRESSED BY REDDAWAY EARLIER (SEE PARA. 3 LONDON REFTEL).

8. IN SUMMARY, THE FOREGOING INFORMATION SHOULD IN NO WAY BE INTERPRETED AT THIS TIME THAT WE HAVE SOLVED THE PROBLEM OF UK ACCEPTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN SPOKANE '74. HOWEVER, EMBASSY IS ENDEAVORING TO LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED IN TRYING TO BRING A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION TO THIS ISSUE. IN THE EVENT THESE THREE COMPANIES WOULD CO-SPONSOR UK PARTICIPATION, THE EMBASSY WOULD THEN RE-OPEN ISSUE WITH FCO.

9. SUGGESTED ACTION: THAT COMMISSIONER GENERAL HENDERSON CONTACT COCHRANE (PER PARA 2) AS WELL AS D. J. PEPPER, PRESIDENT, ROLLS ROYCE AERO ENGINES INC., N.Y.C., AND MURRY P. WHITE, PRESIDENT, BRITISH AIRCRAFT CORP. (USA) INC., ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION IN EXPO '74, IN ORDER THAT THEY WILL BE PREPARED FOR INQUIRIES FROM THEIR PARENT COMPANIES IN THE UK.  
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## Message Attributes

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